

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the top of the first page, under the title and just under BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a Divisional Application of U.S. Application No. 10/183,872, filed June 28, 2002, which is a Divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/398,002, filed September 16, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,456,575, both of which claims priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application Nos. 10-293712, filed October 15, 1998 and 11-257706, filed September 10, 1999, the entire contents all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 44, delete the whole paragraph starting at line 2 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

The laser beam L2 emitted from the second semiconductor laser element 21 and focused on the recording layer of the optical disk D is reflected by the reflecting film and returned to the object lens 33. Then, the laser beam L1 is incident on the $\lambda/4$ plate 32 once again, by which the direction of polarization is changed from circular polarization to linear polarization. The direction of linear polarization is 90° shifted from that of the laser beam L2 that is directed to the optical disk D. Thereafter, the laser beam L2 is returned to the polarized beam splitter 31. Of the laser beam L2 returned to the polarized splitter 31, some components may travel toward the half-mirror beam splitter 34. Even if this happens, such components do not fall on the photodetector 36 due to the presence of the band-pass filter 211 described above. In this manner, outputs from the photodetector 36, i.e., the information recorded on the recording medium D, can be reproduced without being affected by noise.

Page 46, delete the whole paragraph starting at line 12 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

In view of the foregoing, it is desirable that the object lens 33 and collimator lens 12 (22) of the optical head apparatus 1 be arranged in such a manner that the ratio $F2/F1$ is greatest but does not exceed 10. In accordance with an increase in $F2/F1$, however, the distance between the light emission point of the laser element and the collimator lens lengthens, adversely affecting the efficiency with which light is utilized. If a large polarized beam splitter 31, a large object lens 33, a large collimator lens 12 (2) and a high-output laser

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element are employed, a decrease in the light utilization efficiency can be prevented, with a constant ratio $F2/F1$ maintained. In this case, however, the optical head apparatus is inevitably large in size.

Page 51, delete the whole paragraph starting at line 4 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

In the optical head apparatus shown in FIG. 12, power control is performed, for example, as follows. The power of one of the two laser beams is used for reproduction (which power is less intensive), and the power of the other laser beam is used for recording (which power is intensive). The power of the laser beam for recording is modulated in intensity in accordance with recording signals, i.e., information to be recorded. By executing this power control, the recording time is short, and yet information can be recorded in a reliable manner. In addition, information can be reproduced from the recording medium by using the laser beam from at least one laser chip.